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FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

EXAMINER

QUIETT, CARRAMAH J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/918,100

Applicant(s)

IJAS ET AL.

Examiner

Carramah J. Quiett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-8, and 10-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 7/30/01 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01072005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statements (IDS), filed on 07/30/2001 and 12/22/2003, have been placed in the application file, and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Claim Objections

3. **Claims 1 and 13** are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 recites the limitation "wherein said first wall (23), said upper wall (24) or the edge (25) there between is provided with a navigation key (3) within the reach of the forefinger, equipped also with a push-button function and arranged rotatable in at least two opposite directions." in page 19, line 1 of the Claims. Please change the edge (25) to an edge (25). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 13 recites the limitation, "wherein said first wall (23), said upper wall (24) or the edge (25) there between is provided with a navigation key (3) within the reach of the forefinger, equipped also with a push-button function and arranged rotatable in at least two opposite directions." in page 25, line 20 of the Claims. Please change the edge (25) to an edge (25). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. **Claims 8, 13, and 14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

6. **Claim 8** recites the limitation "... wherein *said buttons (4, 5)* and the navigation key (3) are also arranged for their control." in the third line of claim 8. This claim is dependent on claim 1. In claim 1, the limitation recites, "...wherein each said adjacent wall (21,22) is provided with *at least one key button (4, 5)....*" Claim 8 is claiming more than one button when claim 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

7. Regarding **claim 13**, the phrase "*for example*" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

8. The term "*if necessary*" in **claim 14** is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "*if necessary*" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The limitation, "...also their folding in relation to each other before said movement," of claim 14 has been rendered indefinite by the use of the term "*if necessary*".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10. **Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, and 11-13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suso et al. (U.S. Pat. #6,069,648).

For **claim 1**, Suso discloses an information communication terminal device comprising an opened and closed use position (figs. 3a and 3b; col. 3, lines 45-57), comprising at least: a first housing part comprising at least an inner wall (fig. 3b, ref. 1), a second housing part comprising at least an inner wall (fig. 3b, ref. 2);

Suso does not explicitly disclose a hinge mechanism (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7; col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5) arranged to fold the first and the second housing parts in the closed position in relation to each other for a first use position, wherein the inner walls are against each other, remaining between the housing parts. Although Suso states that when the device is closed it is in a non-use state in col. 4, lines 26-28, it is inherent that Suso's device has a use for the closed position. When device is in the closed position, this position is used to protect the parts of the phone when the device is in someone's pocket. Additionally, this device is still in use when it's in the closed position because the phone can ring to notify the operator of an incoming call. Lastly, Suso does disclose a hinge mechanism (col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5) in the opened position for a second use position (col. 4, lines 30-38), wherein the inner walls are adjacent to each other (fig. 3b), characterized in that the device also comprises at least:

an electronic display (fig. 1a, refs. 4,5) fitted on at least one said inner wall and arranged for displaying information to the user in the opened position (fig. 1), when the device is on the palm or on a base and the display is directed at the user. Please see figs. 4-5d, which shows Suso's device being operated at different angles. This allows the device to display information

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to the user in the opened position (fig. 1), when the device is on the palm or on a base and the display is directed at the user. Please read col. 4, lines 11-60;

a third housing part (fig 1a, ref. 8) arranged for holding the device in different use positions (col. 2, line 54 – col. 3, line 5; col. 4, lines 11-60) and illustrated in figs. 1a-1b comprising a first wall (facing out of the page) placed transversely to the user's palm (figs. 4, 5b-5c; Note: Due the various positions of the device, its inherent that a user can choose to hold the third housing in any manner) and an opposite wall (facing into of the page) on the opposite side of the third housing part, as well as two adjacent walls (right and left) there between and an upper wall (abuts the bottom portion of the first housing, ref. 1);

wherein the hinge mechanism (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7) is fitted on the side of said opposite wall (facing into of the page) and arranged for folding the first and the second housing parts also in relation to the third housing part (fig 1a, ref. 8). Please read col. 2, line 53 – col. 3, line 5;

wherein each said adjacent wall (right and left) is provided with at least one key button (fig. 1c, ref. 11; col. 2, line 57) within the reach of the fingers for controlling the electronic functions of the device and

Suso discloses said first wall, said upper wall or *the edge* there between is provided with a navigation key within the reach of the forefinger, equipped also with a push-button function and arranged rotatable in at least two opposite directions. Suso discloses a power source button (fig. 1c, ref. 11; col. 3, lines 23-25) at the rotary shaft, which is on the left edge of the housing member (fig. 1a, ref. 8). Together the power source button and the rotary shaft encompass a navigation key. This feature allows a user to turn on the device for selecting the record mode (col. 4, line 63 – col. 5, line 4) and the option to rotate the camera (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7; col. 2,

line 66 – col. 3, line 5). On the right side of the housing member, there is a connector part (fig. 1b, ref. 3), which connects the electrically coupled housings (col. 1, line 52 – col. 2, line 12).

For claim 4, Suso further discloses an information communication terminal device characterized in that it comprises electronic display means arranged on at least one said adjacent wall. As illustrated in figs. 1b and 1c, the electronic display housing abuts each adjacent wall (right and left) and is arranged for presenting information to the user in the closed position of the device. When the device is closed, this device is inherently still in use, via the infrared communication means (fig. 3a, ref. 10'). Since ref. 10' is a communication means, it presents information to the user by transmitting information to a computer (col. 3, lines 59-65).

For claim 6, Suso further discloses an information communication terminal device characterized in that in its opened position, the third housing part is on the opposite side of the device in relation to the inner walls, extending in a direction which is perpendicular to said inner walls. Please see figs. 1a and 3b; and read col. 2, lines 48-65.

For claim 8, Suso further discloses an information communication terminal device characterized in that one of the housing parts (fig. 1a, ref. 8) is provided with electronic image sensor means for still and/or video images (col. 2, lines 59-62), wherein said buttons (fig. 1c, ref. 11) and the navigation key are also arranged for their control (col. 4, line 63 – col. 5, line 4). As stated earlier, together the power source button and the rotary shaft encompass a navigation key. This feature allows a user to turn on the device for selecting the record mode (col. 4, line 63 – col. 5, line 4) and the option to rotate the camera (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7; col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5). On the right side of the housing member, there is a connector part (fig. 1b, ref. 3), which connects the electrically coupled housings (col. 1, line 52 – col. 2, line 12).

For **claim 11**, Suso further discloses an information communication terminal device characterized in that the navigation key is a rotatable roll or a rocker key. Please see fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7; and read col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5; and col. 4, line 63 – col. 5, line 4.

For **claim 12**, Suso further discloses an information communication terminal device characterized in that it is a communication device comprising at least a CMT user interface which is available in the closed position of the device (1), and at least a PDA user interface which is available in the opened position of the device (1). Please see figs. 3a and 7; and read col. 1, line 48- col. 3, line 12. As mentioned in Suso's disclosure, his device is also a portable phone. When the device is closed, this device is inherently still in use, via the infrared communication means (fig. 3a, ref. 10'), because information from the device can be transmitted to a computer (col. 3, lines 59-65).

For **claim 13**, Suso discloses a handle arrangement for a portable (Note: Due to various positions of the device, it's inherent that a user can choose to hold the third housing in any manner. Therefore, the handle arrangement can be the either one of the first, second, or third housings), foldable electronic device comprising two or more positions and comprising at least two housing parts (fig. 3b, refs. 1 and 2) foldable in relation to each other (figs. 3a and 3b; col. 3, lines 45-57) and a hinge mechanism (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7; col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5) arranged for connecting and folding the first and the second housing parts in relation to each other (col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5), characterized in that the handle arrangement comprises a handle-like third housing part (fig 1a, ref. 8) arranged for holding the device in the different use positions. Therefore and comprising at least:

a first wall (facing out of the page) placed transversely against the user's palm (figs. 4, 5b-5c; Note: As stated before, due the various positions of the device, it is inherent that a user can choose to hold the third housing in any manner), and an opposite wall (facing into of the page) on the opposite side of the third housing part, as well as two adjacent walls (right and left) there between and an upper wall (abuts the bottom portion of the first housing, ref. 1);

wherein said hinge mechanism (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7) or one of said housing parts directly is arranged to be connected on the side of said opposite wall (facing into of the page) – please read col. 2, line 53 thru col. 3, line 5 – wherein the hinge mechanism and the third housing part are placed, for example, on opposite sides of said one housing part, and

wherein each said adjacent wall (right and left) is provided with at least one key button (fig. 1c, ref. 11; col. 2, line 57) within the reach of the fingers for controlling the electronic functions of the device and

Suso discloses said first wall, said upper wall or *the edge* there between is provided with a navigation key within the reach of the forefinger, equipped also with a push-button function and arranged rotatable in at least two opposite directions. Suso discloses a power source button (fig. 1c, ref. 11; col. 3, lines 23-25) at the rotary shaft, which is on the left edge of the housing member (fig. 1a, ref. 8). Together the power source button and the rotary shaft encompass a navigation key. This feature allows a user to turn on the device for selecting the record mode (col. 4, line 63 – col. 5, line 4) and the option to rotate the camera (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7; col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5). On the right side of the housing member, there is a connector part (fig. 1b, ref. 3), which connects the electrically coupled housings (col. 1, line 52 – col. 2, line 12).

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Additionally, Suso's navigation keys are placed on the first or second housings (fig. 7, ref. 21a and fig. 8, ref. 23b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. **Claims 2 and 14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suso et al. (U.S. Pat. #6,069,648) in view of Abe (JP Pub. #11-136655).

For **claim 2**, Suso further discloses a device characterized in that the first and the second housing parts are arranged to move away from the third housing part before opening in opposite directions. Figure 2 illustrates the assembly of the first, second, and third housings via the hinge mechanism (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7; col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5). Further, col. 3, lines 27-44 describes how the housings are inserted into the hinge mechanism. It is apparent that the first and the second housing parts are arranged to move away from the third housing part by separating the housings in reverse to the method for inserting the housings. Since Suso's device is capable of numerous positions (figs. 4 and 5a-5d) moving the first and second housing away from the third housing can apparently be completed before opening in opposite directions. Additionally, the hinge mechanism allows one to rotate the camera housing (ref. 8). Suso does not disclose a device where the first and the second housing parts placed against each other are arranged, upon closing, to be partly inserted in the third housing part to reduce the outer dimensions of the device.

Abe, on the other hand, discloses the first (ref. 10a) and the second (ref. 10b) housing parts placed against each other are arranged (please see drawings 1 and 3), upon closing, to be partly inserted in the third housing part (ref. 30) to reduce the outer dimensions of the device. As illustrated in drawing 1, the device (ref. 10) consists of the first (ref. 10a) and second (10b) housings. When the second housing (ref. 10b) is inserted in the third housing (30), it inside the opening of the third housing, which leaves the first housing on the outside of the third housing. This reduces the dimensions of device (ref. 10) to the first housing (ref. 10a) – see drawing 3. Similar to Suso, Abe's camera housing (ref. 31) is also rotatable (English translation of Abe, paragraphs 0051-0017). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Suso's invention with the housing insertion technique of Abe so that the consumer can choose whether or not he wants to have a camera on his communication device (Abe, paragraph [0010]).

For **claim 14**, Suso further discloses a device which includes a handle arrangement, characterized in that for reducing the outer dimensions of the device, it is arranged to store said hinge mechanism in a movable manner and at least partly inside the third housing part, or it is arranged to insert said one housing part at least partly in the third housing part, wherein the coupling between said one housing part and the third housing part allows at least said movement and, if necessary, also their folding in relation to each other before said movement. Figure 2 illustrates the assembly of the first, second, and third housings via the hinge mechanism (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7; col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5). Further, col. 3, lines 27-44 describes how the housings are inserted into the hinge mechanism. It is apparent that the first and the second housing parts are arranged to move away from the third housing part by separating the housings

in reverse to the method for inserting the housings. Additionally, since Suso's device is capable of numerous positions (figs. 4 and 5a-5d) moving the first and second housing away from the third housing can apparently be completed before opening in opposite directions.

Abe, on the other hand, discloses the first (ref. 10a) and the second (ref. 10b) housing parts placed against each other are arranged (please see drawings 1 and 3), upon closing, to be partly inserted in the third housing part (ref. 30) to reduce the outer dimensions of the device. As illustrated in drawing 1, the device (ref. 10) consists of the first (ref. 10a) and second (10b) housings. When the second housing (ref. 10b) is inserted in the third housing (30), it inside the opening of the third housing, which leaves the first housing on the outside of the third housing. This reduces the dimensions of device (ref. 10) to the first housing (ref. 10a) – see drawing 3. Similar to Suso, Abe's camera housing (ref. 31) is also rotatable (English translation of Abe, paragraphs 0051-0017). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Suso's invention with the housing insertion technique of Abe so that the consumer can choose whether or not he wants to have a camera on his communication device (Abe, paragraph [0010]).

13. **Claim 3** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suso et al. (U.S. Pat. #6,069,648) in view of Frye et al. (U.S. Pat. #6,188,765).

For **claim 3**, Suso does not further disclose an information communication terminal device characterized in that said upper wall is provided with a key button within the reach of the forefinger for opening the first and the second housing parts automatically by means of the hinge mechanism. Instead, Suso's device has a hinge mechanism (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7) that rotates (col. 2, line 66- col. 3, line 5).

Frye discloses characterized in that said upper wall is provided with a key button (fig. 4, ref. 10) within the reach of the forefinger for opening the first and the second housing parts automatically by means of the hinge mechanism (col. 4, lines 17-41). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Suso's invention with the key button of Frye to assist a user of the handset in being able to open the phone using only one hand (Frye, col. 1, lines 49-50).

14. **Claim 7** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suso et al. (U.S. Pat. #6,069,648) in view of Phillipps (GB Pub. #2314179A).

For **claim 7**, Suso further discloses an information communication terminal device characterized in that in its opened position, the inner walls are parallel and placed adjacent to each other, but they do not form a uniform inner wall. Phillipps discloses a portable electronic apparatus characterized in that in its opened position, the inner walls are parallel and placed adjacent to each other to form a uniform inner wall (Abstract, figure 5). Similar to Suso, Phillipps has three housings, which includes a hinge mechanism (fig. 5, ref. 13). In addition Phillipps' apparatus may be applied to a combined mobile telephone and computer apparatus (page 1, lines 24-28). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Suso's invention with the uniform inner wall of Phillipps so that information the device can be read or written similar to a book or notebook (Phillipps, page 2, lines 11-14).

15. **Claim 10** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suso et al. (U.S. Pat. #6,069,648) in view of Abe (JP Pub. #11-136655), and further in view of Frye et al. (U.S. Pat. #6,188,765).

For **claim 10**, Suso further discloses an information communication terminal device characterized in that the hinge mechanism comprises a hinge system (fig. 1a, refs. 6 and 7; col. 2, line 66 – col. 3, line 5) arranged for folding the first and the second housing parts in relation to each other (figs. 3a and 3b; col. 3, lines 45-57). Suso does not disclose a device wherein the third housing part, an ejector mechanism arranged to eject the first and the second housing parts wholly and the hinge system partly from the third housing part, and an unfolding mechanism arranged to assist in the opening of the first and the second housing parts.

Column 3, lines 27-44 describes how the housings are inserted into the hinge mechanism. It is apparent that the first and the second housing parts can be ejected from the third housing part via the user by separating the housings in reverse to the method for inserting the housings. Since Suso's device is capable of numerous positions (figs. 4 and 5a-5d) moving the first and second housing away from the third housing can apparently be completed before opening in opposite directions. Additionally, the hinge mechanism allows one to rotate the camera housing (ref. 8).

Abe, on the other hand, discloses the first (ref. 10a) and the second (ref. 10b) housing parts placed against each other are arranged (please see drawings 1 and 3), upon closing, to be partly inserted in the third housing part (ref. 30) to reduce the outer dimensions of the device. As illustrated in drawings 1 and 3, the user can eject the first and second housings along with the hinge from the third housing. Similar to Suso, Abe's camera housing (ref. 31) is also rotatable

(English translation of Abe, paragraphs 0051-0017). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Suso's invention with the housing insertion technique of Abe so that the consumer can choose whether or not he wants to have a camera on his communication device (Abe, paragraph [0010]).

Next, Frye discloses characterized in that said upper wall is provided with a ridge (fig. 4, ref. 10) within the reach of the forefinger for opening the first and the second housing parts automatically by means of the hinge mechanism (col. 4, lines 17-41). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Suso's invention with the ridge of Frye to assist a user of the handset in being able to open the phone using only one hand (Frye, col. 1, lines 49-50).

Allowable Subject Matter

16. **Claims 5 and 9** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

17. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

For **claim 5**, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a device according to claim 1, characterized in that said electronic display comprises a partial display arranged on the inner wall of the first housing part and a partial display arranged on the inner wall of the second housing part, which are arranged for presenting information in at least two orientations transverse to each other for a vertical and a horizontal position of the device.

For **claim 9**, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a device according to claim 8, characterized in that the electronic image sensor means comprise a turnable camera arm

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extending from the third housing part in between the first and the second housing parts provided with a space and a transparent housing for the camera arm and for protecting it.

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patents

Loritz et al. (#5,748,441)

Notepad computer having three housings including a means for capturing images.

Wilcox et al (#5,649,309)

Hinge mechanism for releasing wireless communication device cover

Tsukamoto (#6,738,642)

Communication device with a rotational operation dial.

Suso et al. (#6,466,202)

Portable and foldable information terminal unit with three housings including a means for capturing images.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carramah J. Quiett whose telephone number is (703) 305-0566.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00 M-F.

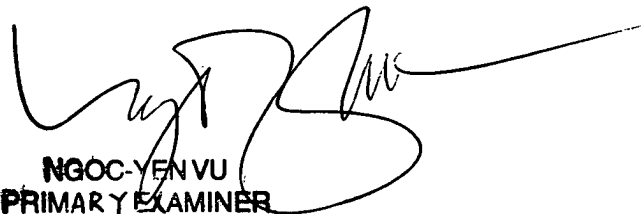
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

C.J.Q.

Jan. 7, 2005



NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER